

VOL. 84, No. 19

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

APRIL 1, 2021

News Review Switches Back To USPS After Long Hiatus

by S. Cargo Post

After careful analysis of its distribution system, the Greenbelt News Review today revealed a plan to revive its quondam method of getting its newspapers onto front porches. Spokesperson Deanna Dawson explained that the newspaper is returning to a model it first pioneered in the early 1950s (see the archives issue of <https://archive.org/details/GC1953111201>) where the newspaper was delivered by the U.S. Postal Service instead of having carriers going door to door. This is a model followed by many local newspapers nationwide.

See **USPS**, page 2

Incumbents Decline to Run: Seven Council Seats Open

In an unprecedented, unanimous but uncoordinated action, all seven incumbents in the city council have announced that they will not run for reelection this year. Over the course of the past week, all council members, apparently without consultation with the others, submitted a letter stating their intention to step down from council.

The reasons given varied, but generally fell into two categories. A number of councilmembers stated that they felt there were better uses for their Monday evenings. Others implied, although did not directly state, that they were considering pursuing political goals in a broader arena.

Typical of the “better use of

Mondays” reasons were those stating that they were interested in teaching (Zen and the Art of Bicycle Maintenance; Punctuation for Pundits) or taking professional development courses (Parliamentarianism, Writing for Brevity) that are only offered on Mondays. One stated plaintively, “I’m tired of missing Monday Night Football.”

A piscatorial theme ran through the letters in the other category: “I’m tired of being a big fish in a small pond – I need a bigger pond” and “I have bigger fish to fry than this little burg.”

Although the bigger ponds

See **COUNCIL**, page 2

Realtime City Assessment Tool Brings AI to Council

by HAL



Council activities are being monitored by an interactive AI bot that tracks interruptions, eye rolling, repetitions and pursed lips during council meetings.

In an effort to streamline city worksessions and council meetings, an artificial intelligence (AI) tool, surveying the ongoing meeting in real time visually and via audio, provided council members and the viewing audience with feedback via a near-real-time dashboard of meeting

performance statistics. City Manager Nicole Ard noted that AI had proven effective in improving meeting processes in a variety of meeting styles.

The AI tool is designed to ‘learn’ from the input data it

See **AI TOOL**, page 2

Maglev Makes Radical Design Changes to Appease Objectors

The public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project is open through April 22. However, the overwhelmingly negative comments submitted thus far have led project developers to make unprecedented, radical changes to its basic design. The original plan was for the high-speed train to run below ground through populated areas then emerge above ground on federal or other public properties. Homeowners worry about the effect of tunnel construction and operation on property values. Environmentalists are distraught at the loss and fragmentation of forests and other natural habitats that the project will cause. And residents of Prince George’s County are livid about the years-long disruptions they face with no apparent benefit, since maglev has no stops in the county.

The new plan addresses these concerns. The tunnel-viaduct scheme is reversed, so maglev now will travel above populated areas and beneath natural ar-



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

In maglev’s revised design, the J1 alignment passes over Forest Preserve trees and goes underground at the Northway mulch pile.

eas. Maglev officials believe that trains zipping along the elevated guideway will bring “new energy” to impoverished communities along the route, and the whoosh of air over trains will muffle traffic noise from the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Capital Beltway, which Greenbelt residents are forever complaining about. If the J1 alignment is selected, north-bound trains will cross over the Parkway at the NASA Goddard entrance/exit ramps, then dive steeply underground at Northway Fields. The leaf compost pile at that location will muffle the sonic booms emitted as trains enter and exit the tunnel, and nary a tree need be cut in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. The final element of the redesign is the addition of a station, to be built in the

See **MAGLEV**, page 2

Lake Dam Failure Predicted To Flood Central Greenbelt

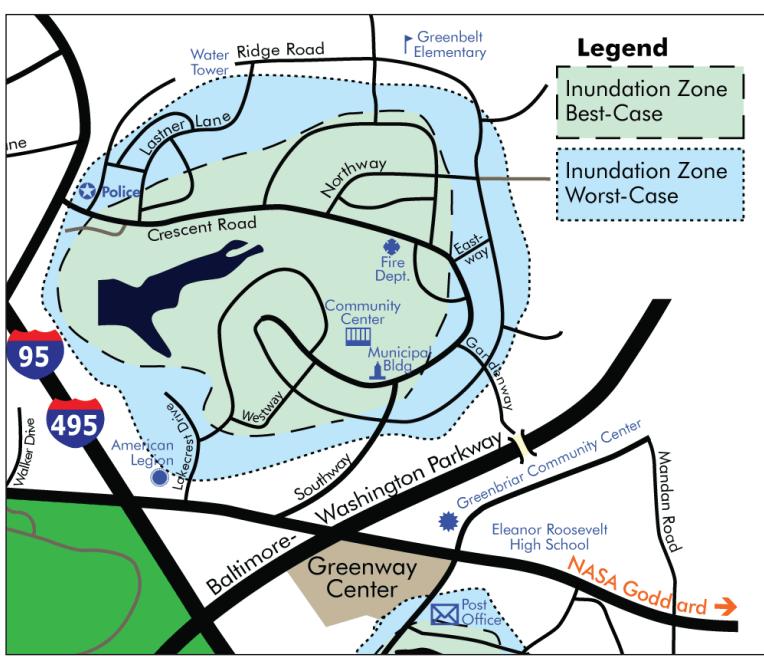
by Misty Rivers

At its March 29 geotechnical worksession, the Greenbelt City Council was shocked by preliminary findings in an updated Greenbelt Lake Dam Emergency Action Plan following the stabilization project completed last year. While the dam is structurally sound for the time being, new data indicate that opposing geologic forces pull on the dam, increasing the risk within the next decade that its tensile failure could lead to major flooding.

Public Works senior geologic engineer Albert Wegener presented a map to councilmembers indicating a “best case” dam failure would “flood the Fire Department and waves lap at the Police building,” and homes along Lakeside would be “completely submerged within minutes.” The Aquatic Center and Co-op Grocery Store would be under 4 to 6 feet of water. A “worst case” failure exacerbated by concurrent heavy rainfall would provoke a class 2 tsunami reaching the base of the Lastner Lane water tower inundating nearly all homes in Boxwood, Woodland Hills, and GHI, and reaching the second floor of the Municipal Building and fifth floor of Charlestowne North apartments.

Wegener said the Greenbelt Lake dam was constructed in 1936 using state-of-the-art en-

gineering. However, geological surveys since then led to a much better understanding of Greenbelt’s localized tectonic underpinnings. Recent data confirms the Westway plate pulling south at a rate of 47 millimeters per year, while the Northway plate subducts east 59 millimeters per year. This results in a stretching effect as both sides of the dam move apart, and leads to cracks visible on Crescent Road and a water leak through the pavement on lower Northway. According to the report, seismometers at



Potential flood zones in the event of dam failures

the University of Maryland indicate Virginia’s magnitude 5.8 earthquake in 2011 that caused major cracks in the Washington Monument also destabilized the Westway plate, “dramatically increasing the risk of dam failure leading to catastrophic flooding.”

Wegener noted FEMA expects to update its maps in 2022, and suggested central Greenbelt homeowners purchase flood insurance now before rates are adjusted.

See **LAKE DAM**, page 13

** April Fool! * April Fool! **

Youth-Oriented Hamilton Place Initiative Reaches New Heights

by Felicity Longshot

The Economic Development Committee of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) at its meeting on March 28, voted to seek city council approval and county planning permission for a 14-story cooperative apartment and office building to expand GHI's current headquarters on Hamilton Place. The three lower levels will feature offices for the cooperative's business activities, warehouse facilities and a Starbucks.

Greening Greenbelt

The upper floors of the new building will host 120 long-awaited one- and two-bedroom age 55 and under apartments designed for young and active people with energy, sparkling new ideas, recent clothing styles and cute boxy little cars. "It's been a very long time coming," commented former GHI Board President Steve Skolnik, adding that, "All those people, the Generation Xs, the Millennials and the Generation Zs need a place to live. They don't



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Artist's rendering of proposed addition to GHI headquarters

see a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community as suiting their lifestyles." Prospective resident and member, 32-year-old Brit-

tany Cholmodely-Frowzebotham commented, "Yes-No. Wow! I mean, you know. Totally. That's so amazing!"

USPS continued from page 1

Delivery Speeds

At the present time, it is taking the Greenbelt Post Office an average of approximately 17.5 days to provide city-wide delivery of a piece of mail dropped into a Greenbelt mailbox, with scientific studies showing that mail posted in College Park takes slightly less time, at 15 days. Further experimentation has shown that

the further the destination, the faster it arrives (Peirce, Hayward: Mail Supremacy, publ. in Analog (1975)) – with mail from Australia taking just about 4 days.

New Processes

In the new process, the newspaper mail will first be sent to Los Angeles (a documented 12-day round trip time back to Greenbelt). A displaced Green-

belt living there (who prefers to remain anonymous) will then forward all the newspapers to Greenbelt for delivery. Given the distance effect noted earlier, the News Review's ingenious quantum-based mailing strategy will shave off as much as four days from in-town delivery times.

Dawson noted that the board regrets the necessity of laying off its carriers, many of whom are downright delightful most of the time. She alludes, however, to their unfortunate tendency to hide newspapers under bushes and to dump them wholesale in nearby swales when it's raining or a contemporary sends a too-enticing text.



Slide Reinstalled in Pool; GAC to Present Little Mermaid

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff announced this week that they are going to return to the original design of the outdoor pool, and install a slide and a diving board this summer.

In related news, Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) is planning performances of The Little Mermaid in the outdoor pool later in the summer. GAC has been closed for in-person shows inside

the facility during the pandemic, and the board is delighted to find a solution. Actors' entrances will be made via the new slide and diving board. The show will be choreographed so that each actor stays in their own lane, and there will be a new cast every 45 minutes. The new general manager is planning to wake up early each morning to sign up enough lanes for the rehearsals.



PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The outdoor pool, c. May 1942

COUNCIL continued from p. 1

and fish were not identified, it is noted that Senator Chris Van Hollen's seat in the U.S. Senate will be contended for in the 2022 election as will, like all the seats in the House of Representatives, Rep. Steny Hoyer's seat.

One candidate gave no reason for not seeking reelection, but merely stated, "In the immortal words of LBJ, 'If nominated I will not run, and if elected I will not serve.' (Although President Johnson said something similar, "I shall not seek, nor will I accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president." The source of the councilmember's exact quotation is actually Stephen King, in regard to the 2018 Maine gubernatorial election.)

When asked about the prospects of recruiting, training and working with a council completely composed of novices, City Manager Nicole Ard merely smiled and quietly banged her head against the wall.

AI TOOL continued from page 1

receives, gradually producing higher and higher fidelity results as it recognizes and interrelates multiple aspects of council meetings. At its first outing, the tool, nicknamed Boralot (a reference to Spamalot, itself a spoof on King Arthur's Camelot), began interpreting patterns of speech, modes of interaction and topics. Initially compiling statistics only on how often and for how long each speaker talked, how many times each speaker interrupted another or, conversely, who never said a word, within 45 minutes it became clear that Boralot was becoming increasingly aware of the proceedings.

Two new categories were displayed for participants: Wince and Eye Rolls. A grid showed which councilmember winced or eye-rolled and at whom the wince or eye-roll was directed. Soon the category Moue appeared. The AI tool comes with an extensive vocabulary of human gesture and nuance, knowing that moue, from the French, means a tiny face of disapproval, a facial Gallic shrug. Scores mounted quickly on the Wince, Eye Roll and Moue (WERM) scale; by the fourth hour of the meeting, the WERM counts were over three digits each.

Boralot escalated. After an intense but circular exchange, Boralot opened up a chat window and typed, "Councilmember X, you already said that twice."

MAGLEV continued from page 1

parking lot at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Travel times from Greenbelt will be 5 minutes or less to Washington and 10 minutes to Baltimore.

These changes, however, will be costly and thus require that ticket prices be raised. One-way tickets from Greenbelt will cost \$100 to Washington and about \$300 to Baltimore. An extra

As the next speaker droned on, Boralot noted, "X already said that twice. That's three times – let's vote now." A muted cheer rose from the three citizens still listening at 11:15 p.m. Muted, because their mikes were commanded 'Off'. Two of the citizens were still listening for reasons known only to themselves; the third was reporting for this newspaper.

Unwilling to be dictated to by a computer, council continued to deliberate, with the chat window continuing to note repetitive utterances and the WERM counts mounting. Council, however, eventually bowed to the inevitable and took the vote. No one's opinion had been changed by the debate.

At midnight, the chat window grew larger and began to flash. In fiery red, bold, 50-point type, the message came: "My program terminates at midnight. And so does yours. Time to go to bed." The screen went blank. The microphones shut off. Each member of the council and the last remaining faithful citizen were promptly e-mailed a copy of the Boralot score card, with private feedback addressed to each councilmember.

It remains to be seen whether the city manager implements Boralot as a fixture, though it must be said she has motive enough.

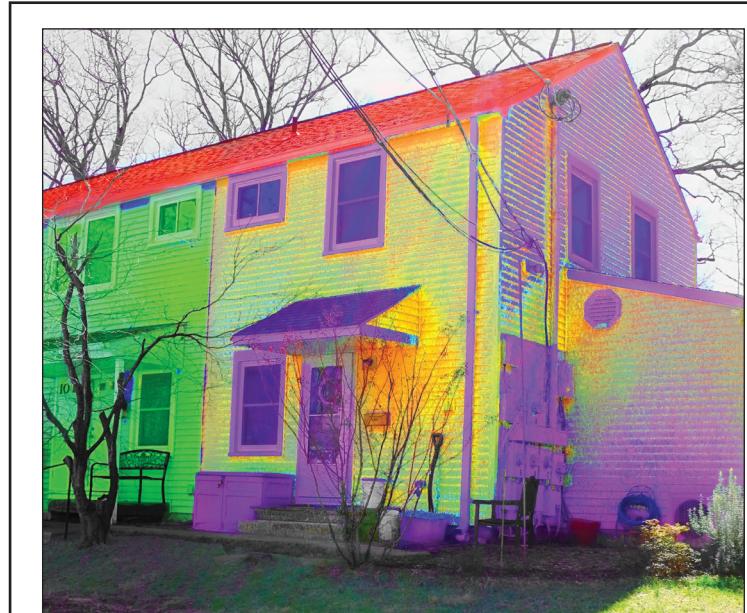


PHOTO COURTESY OWNERS

Greenbelt Homes Inc. adopted a new name today, becoming Garish Homes Inc. Henceforth all houses will be painted with the fluorescent shades of day-glo paint. GHI board members cite studies showing reflection levels of paint are important for building cooling. They said they would also consider using the ultra-reflective black paint used for the Air Force's secret Night-hawk planes, if they can find the building they used as a test site.

Contributors to these pages are: Jill Connor, Bill Cornett, Deanna Dawson, Jon and Anne Gardner, Amy Hansen, Tom Jones, Sandra Lange, Cathie Meetre, Pat Scully and Melissa Sites.



26th Annual ACE Awards Given To Educators in Greenbelt Schools

by Kathleen Gallagher

Melinda Brady, chair of the City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), introduced the committee's 26th year of awards, noting that these were also the Second Annual Virtual ACE Awards. While the virtual version is absent the usual reception, large crowd and event photos, it maintains all the pleasure and pride Greenbelt takes in the dedication and exceptional contributions of its teachers and other staff who comprise the school team.

The timing of the event precluded attendance by some of the State of Maryland representatives, but Delegate Nicole Williams and County Councilmember Todd Turner were both able to stop by.

Brady announced that ACE members would make their introductions of the awardees from

the schools.

Springhill Lake Elementary

Janet Mirsky introduced William Dunlap, who has served at Springhill Lake for 23 of his 24 years in the field of education. He started as a teacher in physical education, but when an opening came up, he joined the special education team and never looked back. He is an excellent teacher in working with students who have physical and emotional disabilities. He has an amazing ability to still troubled waters and has a calming influence on both students and staff. In another role, he is also "the SHL Music Man," managing the music at events and playing the piano himself.

Magnolia Elementary

Brady presented the award to Amah Bella Navarrosa. Teaching

in a virtual environment has been a challenge for many, but Navarrosa is reported to have accepted the challenge with grace and determination. She has embraced technological advances and always brings a positive spirit to the learning environment. She also takes the time and interest to create a positive, warm and inviting atmosphere in both her virtual and face-to-face classrooms.

Greenbelt Elementary

Don Rich presented George Courtney as the recipient of the ACE Award. Himself a proud alumnus of Greenbelt Elementary, Courtney joined the staff in 2012 as a dedicated aide on the special education team and has since been promoted to the role of paraprofessional. His dedication

See ACE AWARDS, page 6

Fire Department Hosts First Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

by Brittany N. Gaddy

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. hosted a two-day Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28. Greenbelters took pictures with the Easter Bunny. Sparky the Fire Dog joined the photo event on Sunday.

Lisa Hegwood, the department's special events and public outreach chair, said this first-time event was organized by the department and Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.

"We thought that it was really important for us to stay involved with the community, even though

there are still a lot of Covid restrictions about gatherings and special events," she said. "So we thought that this was a really good way to get people out of their houses and around the city and then also interacting with us."

Mayor Colin Byrd visited the fire department Sunday in support of the organization. He greeted volunteers and took pictures with the Easter Bunny and Sparky the Fire Dog.

Byrd said he cherishes and takes advantage of the little opportunities to connect and to say thank you. "So really humbled and grateful that ... people seem

to be in good spirits," he said. "This is encouraging."

Scavenger Hunt participants who found golden eggs that were hidden around the city won Easter baskets Sunday.

Greenbelt resident Lindsay Beardan found one of the golden eggs. "It honestly was a little stressful," she admitted about the hunt. But she also said "it was a good treat."

Kids greeted the Easter Bunny with high-fives Saturday. They danced and played with the Easter Bunny and received fire prevention materials from volunteers.

See EGG HUNT, page 6



The Sardineta family takes a picture with the Easter Bunny and Sparky the Fire Dog.

GHI Homes Improvement Program Is Almost Finished

by Deanna Dawson



PHOTO BY GLEN HARRIS

New windows are installed in a brick home in 2016, the first year of the GHI Homes Improvement Program.

For the past five years, contractors have been busy throughout the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) housing cooperative, installing various components of the community-wide Homes Improvement Program (HIP). Windows, entry doors and baseboard heaters have been replaced in

nearly all of the 1600 housing units, and all the frame units are sporting new siding. The work is scheduled to be finished by mid-April, weather permitting.

These upgrades were paid for by GHI's replacement reserves

See GHI, page 8

Vaccination Site to Open April 7 at Greenbelt Metro

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Governor Larry Hogan and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced in a press release on March 30 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has agreed to open a community vaccination center in Prince George's County beginning Wednesday, April 7.

The Federal Pilot Community Vaccination Center (CVC) – Maryland will be located at the Greenbelt Metro Station, with its daily schedule to be announced. As more vaccine doses become available, the center's capacity is expected to be up to 3,000 shots per day. This will be the first federally operated site in Maryland, and it will utilize direct vaccine allocations from the federal government.

"We are grateful to the White House, FEMA and all of our federal partners for working with us to expand our vaccination campaign in Prince George's County and across the state," said Hogan.

"By the end of April, we will have more than 12 mass vaccination sites across Maryland as part of a rapidly expanding vaccine distribution network. These vaccines are safe and effective, and when your turn arrives, we urge

See VACCINATION, page 9

What Goes On

Friday, April 2

8 p.m. Moonlit Movies, Braden Field (tickets required, see city ad)

Monday, April 5

No Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 6

8 p.m. Council Worksession: Apartment Owners/Managers

Wednesday, April 7

8 p.m. Council Worksession: Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC)

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

Letters to the Editor

Fellow Greenbelters,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Greenbelt community for the past 26 years and work in governmental service for the past 36 years. I've had a wonderful career. As I begin a new chapter in my life, I want to say thanks to all those who have been so kind, supportive and helpful during my time with the city!

As many know, Greenbelt means a lot to me. It was my home for over 30 years and my family lived in Boxwood Village for almost 50 years. Becoming involved in civic engagement with the city launched my public service career and is one of the great blessings in my life. Greenbelt was, and will always be, my home town.

Greenbelt is Great!
David E. Moran

Setting the Record Straight on GATE

In response to their letter to the editor last week by Carol Shaw and Dr. Rosado, I want to point out a number of inaccuracies they wrote in their criticisms. They have both been members for less than a few weeks, so I can understand the inaccuracies in their letter.

They state that we [the GATE Board] "have no understanding of how to run a Zoom meeting." We have been meeting via Zoom monthly for over a year. We ran our 2020 Utopia Film Festival in November via Zoom successfully. At our annual meeting on March 21, Murphy's Law made itself known with a glitch that prevented call-in members and guests from joining. My phone was ringing off the hook from folks trying to join. Hardly a "disaster," we went to recess and will hold the rest of the meeting on April 18.

I have seen Zoom meetings canceled due to "Zoom bombers." City Council had to recess a meeting last year due to that also. A disaster is what happened at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. We had an inconvenience caused by a glitch.

The bylaw changes and committee work are ongoing processes. The issues they allude to have been dealt with thoroughly and resolved.

GATE receives no public funds. Our share of the PEG fees your Cable TV provider is required to collect is passed through the city to us. Congress passed this legislation in the early 1980s so that communities could have a voice in the expanding medium of television.

Saying that "at this time GATE is not able to serve our community well" is just plain wrong. With last month's daily Black History features and this month's Women's History weekly features, GATE is doing some of the most outstanding work it has ever done. Our community video production has never been more prolific or better. The 2020-instituted Rose Awards program has been a great success.

We have been producing the very popular Utopia Film Festival annually now going into our 16th year. All-volunteer run, we were even able to host a virtual festival in a year when most other film festivals simply canceled.

Our mission is to foster com-

munity access and education. We run the educational Science Bowl and Democracy Now multiple times daily online and locally on our stations. We show a number of other educational programs as well. You can view our many recent productions as well as live stream online, a capability we only developed in the past two years.

Please go to Greenbeltaccesstv.org and see for yourself.

Our other mission is to educate directly. We have always taught children animation techniques and adult video production classes in our studio. This is of course curtailed due to the pandemic, but an entire new opportunity opened up for us when the school board appealed to organizations such as ours to help educate school students in this most difficult time.

We responded by having multiple meetings with Eleanor Roosevelt High School officials to ascertain how best to help them. We proposed classroom instruction in different areas and will launch our first efforts in early April. George Kochell, our very popular instructor, will be teaching a sanctioned animation club class starting in about two weeks.

George has already been a visiting teacher at Greenbelt Elementary and we hope to have him return there in the future also.

The ERHS school administrators asked us to design a TV production class to be offered this fall. Our goal is to create classes to be given in all of the Greenbelt schools.

This is an exciting time at GATE and we welcome all to participate.

*Frank Gervasi, President
Greenbelt Access Television*

Spaghetti Success

Many thanks to the Greenbelt Community for making the Mowatt MUMC Spaghetti Dinner a wonderful success. To be able to pay our bills and remain financially secure is good. To know that our Community supports us is tremendous. We are grateful. Happy Holy Week.

*Ellen Noll, Lay Leader
Mowatt MUMC*

More Postal Woes

This letter is coming in late only because I learned just today about my USPS problem.

On December 16, 2020, I wrote out two checks, one going to Baltimore and the other to York Springs, Penn. I no doubt mailed them within a day or so (the check going to Baltimore was for my WSSC bill), most likely using the mailbox at Roosevelt Center or the one at 42 Ridge.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



*See our website,
greenbeltnewsreview.com,
for articles in Spanish.*



It's now March 26, almost three and one-half months later, and I've learned only today that neither check arrived at its respective destination. I've been mailing letters since at least 1964, so I have some vague idea about how to make the system work on my behalf. However, in these instances, the USPS has managed to completely lose both of these two first-class letters.

Glenn Harris

More Hanington Please

Please persuade Kyla Hanington to write more for the News Review. Her writing is wonderful, as shown in her recent article about exploring Greenbelt on foot. Can she do more articles about explorations or discoveries?

Joyce Patterson

Term Limits

I support term limits! Anyone who has been on the Greenbelt City Council for an overall total of 10 years should be prohibited from running for life. A lifetime limit is necessary because of the decades-long councilmembers that we have. I want to keep councilmembers from taking a term off, and then running again. It is very difficult for new people to get elected due to the name recognition of the long-term councilmembers.

This will ensure that new ideas, fresh blood, come to the council. Also, 10 years is plenty of time for councilmembers to accomplish their goals. Former councilmembers can continue with their projects as citizens and committee members. All members of council need to be replaced from time to time in order to bring in fresh ideas and keep the council in step with the times.

The political landscape of the D.C. area has been changing. The council needs to change with it. Career councilmembers are inconsistent with that change. Thank you.

Kenneth Silberman

See LETTERS, page 11



Crocuses bloom.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor

Amy Hansen, Managing Editor

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Mary Ann Baker, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Judy Bell, Letty Bonnell, Jerry Bonnell, Melinda Brady, Jessi Britton, Asha Brown, Alan Burt, Rick Coleman, Jill Connor, Jeannette Connors, Peter Curtis, Deanna Dawson, Leigh Ellis, Ana Fernandez-Napp, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Melanie Gaschick, Jim Giese, Patrick Gleason, Jim Gray, Mary Halford, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Larry Hull, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Suzette Joyner, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Sue Krofchik, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Sylvia Lewis, Marcie Lissauer, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Neil McFarb, Kathleen McFarland, Cathie Meetre, Rahul Mehta, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Carolina Napp-Avelli, Patricia Novinski, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Repert, Sandy Rodgers, Lois Rosado, JoEllen Sarff, Pat Scully, René Sewell-Raynor, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Helen Sydavar, Beth Terry, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Joanne Tucker, Jan Wolf, Stan Zirkin and Dea Zugby.

CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the
Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Library Issues Scam Alert to Patrons

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has determined that customers may be receiving fraudulent phone calls, text messages or emails requesting payment for outstanding library fines and fees. These communications are spam and not authorized by PGCMLS. The Library is fine-free (as of July 1, 2020). Official communications regarding lost material fees are sent via email.

Those who receive a message they suspect is fraudulent should notify PGCMLS at pr@pgcmls.info or 240-455-5451.

Individuals are also encouraged to report the fraudulent activity to the following agencies:

- Prince George's County Police Department Financial Crimes Unit, 301-699-2940
- Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, 410-528-8662
- Federal Trade Commission, 877-382-4357.

Spring Activity Guide Now Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation's spring classes and special events are online via the Virtual Recreation Center. Go to greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation to access a wide range of online activities, including classes, video tutorials, sing-alongs and more. Art activities can be accessed in the Visual Arts section of the Virtual Recreation Center.

Where to Get IRS Tax Forms, Publications

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Comptroller of Maryland are now processing individual tax returns for Tax Year 2020. The deadline for filing tax returns or extension requests with the IRS is May 17; for Maryland it is July 15.

The Greenbelt Library has a limited number of the Form 1040/1040-SR (including Schedules 1 to 3) and associated instruction booklets in either English or Spanish. Customers may obtain two copies of each booklet per curbside service visit. IRS Publication 17 will only be available online this year. Contact the PGCMLS Ask A Librarian service at 240-455-5451 or pgcmls.info/656 for assistance.

Customers are encouraged to visit the IRS website (irs.gov) to view/download/print or submit a request for mailing of Federal tax forms and information. Or call 800-829-3676 to request Federal tax forms and publications.

Customers may also obtain two copies of the Maryland 2020 resident tax booklet per curbside service visit. For most Maryland state tax forms and information, visit marylandtaxes.gov. For forms only, call 410-260-7951. Comptroller of Maryland Taxpayer Service Offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday by appointment only. In order to make an appointment at one of their branch offices, customers should access the appointment scheduler at marylandtaxes.gov/locations.php. The local Greenbelt office is located at 6401 Golden Triangle Drive, Suite 100, phone number 301-486-7540.

Arts Advisory Board Meets on Monday

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet online on Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m. For access information, write to ndewald@greenbeltdmd.gov or call 301-474-8000 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Porch Collection Off To A Good Start

RUAK's (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) Porch Greenbelt food drive had a successful first month with its March rollout. RUAK collected about 450 pounds of nonperishable healthy food and personal hygiene items from the Woodland Hills and Boxwood Village neighborhoods, donated to the St. Hugh of Grenoble Food Pantry.

A third collection neighborhood is starting in April: Ridge Road (from Lastner Lane to Research Road) and Research Road. The collection dates in each month are the second Sunday (April 11) for Woodland Hills and the third Sunday (April 18) for Boxwood Village as well as Ridge and Research Roads.

Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer with Porch Greenbelt, please contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Register for Youth Baseball Little League

The 2021 Spring registration is now open for Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League. Programs are available for players 6 to 13 years old. Go to gyblittleleague.org for more information and to register. Email greenbeltyouthbaseball@gmail.com with questions.

Maglev Comments

The Maglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for comments, which are due by Thursday, April 22. Information can be found at bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis.

Comments may be made online or by email following the instructions on the website and also in writing by mailing them to the attention of SCMAGLEV Project/ Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Simple Steps To Stop the Maglev

Are you wanting to take steps against the maglev but don't know what to do and don't have much time? Join Simple Steps to Stop the Maglev. Simple Steps, which can be accomplished in 10 minutes or less (most of the time), are sent three to five days per week and it is optional to follow them. Anyone wanting to join can contact Susan at suzanbwild@gmail.com.

GRANT SEASON IS NOW: EARN MONEY FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION
GREENBELT FOUNDATION
.ORG

Community Outreach Distributes Products

Master's Touch, the outreach ministry of Restoration Center, will be hosting a community outreach on Saturday, April 3 from noon to 4 p.m. in the parking lot at 119 Centerway. They will be distributing small household appliances, diapers, toys, clothes, female sanitary products, furniture, wipes and much more. Covid-19 protocols will be enforced.

For more information, call 301-345-0007, email info@themasterstouch.org, or visit www.themasterstouch.org.

One Community

Greenbelt residents are invited to join Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG), a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of residents who gather virtually monthly to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. The group is building multiple resources. The first is research-tested coping strategies for self-care and stress management called Caring and Connecting Toolkit (bit.ly/CAGtoolkit). Residents are invited to share their ideas and help build resources together.

To find out about the group's monthly meetings (and help plan April's outside activity), email communityconnections@gb@gmail.com.

Lions Club Offers College Scholarships

The Greenbelt Lions Club announces the return of the Stan Hoke Memorial Scholarship Program. For many years, the Lions Club provided scholarships to college-bound Greenbelt residents. This year, the Club is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships.

To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria: (1) be a resident of Greenbelt; (2) be a high school senior graduating from a high school located in Prince George's County; and, (3) be matriculating to a community college or a four-year university.

The awards are based on the applicant's response to the following two questions: Question 1: Why do you think you deserve this scholarship? Question 2: If you could change one thing in Greenbelt, what would it be and why? Further, how would you implement the proposed change?

Those wishing to apply should request the official application form by sending an email to greenbeltlions@gmail.com. The completed application must be returned to the same email address no later than midnight on Friday, April 16 to be considered for this year's scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will be notified on or before May 31.

Library System Strategic Plan

PGCMLS announces the launch of its Strategic Framework 2021-2024, which will guide the work of the library over the next three years. The framework provides a foundation for ongoing collaborations between PGCMLS staff, the Board of Library Trustees and community members to strengthen the library's role as a responsive and trusted community-driven organization.

Community members may explore the library's new Strategic Framework Microsite, pgcmls.libnet.info/strategic-plan/strategic-plan, to learn more about the library's path into the future. Feedback and suggestions are welcome and may be submitted to pr@pgcmls.info.

Career Kickstart Library Program

Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is offering a new four-part Career Kickstart series on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. to gain valuable skills necessary to achieve employment in the public workforce. Learn basic computer and job searching skills, résumé writing and interview etiquette, as well as discover online resources to assist with the job search. Dates and topics for each session of the series are: April 5, Discovery and Job Search; April 12, Soft Skills that Sell; April 19, Résumés that Represent; and April 26, Interviews that Impress. Registration is required, and sessions can be attended individually.

At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. The library's Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Kids Achieve Club

The mission of the Kids Achieve Club program is to provide academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support. Children of all backgrounds and ethnicities are invited to participate.

Teen Resources

Visit pgcmls.info/teens for library resources for teens. Brainfuse HelpNow offers an array of additional learning resources, including SkillSurfer, a library of lessons, videos, tests and more. The library also helps students prepare for standardized tests and writing college admissions essays through the EBSCO LearningExpress online resource. Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, SAT, AP, ASVAB and more to advance higher education and vocational opportunities. Check the PGCMLS virtual events calendar regularly for related programming, such as virtual career chats and conversations about the college experience.

ComicsPlus

ComicsPlus: Library Edition provides unlimited access to thousands of digital graphic novels and comics, anytime, anywhere. Browse by genre, publisher, or title; checkouts are for seven days with unlimited renewals. Visit pgcmls.info on your PC or mobile device, use your PGCMLS library card and check out as many titles as you like. Items are always available, with no holds or waiting periods.



GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Friday April 2 - Thursday April 8

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!

<https://www.greenbeltnet.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CONNECT WITH GATE ON

7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Classic Movies ★ Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Adventure/Fantasy • 1958	• Hercules • Steve Reeves • Sylvia Koscina Directed by Pietro Francisci
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	• Elementary Competition Greenbelt v Tulip Grove
2 pm	Music at the New Deal Café	• Karikatura • Transglobal Soul Band • Cumbia Hip-Hop Ragga Klezmer
3 pm	Classic Movies ★ Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Adventure/Fantasy • 1958	• Hercules • Steve Reeves • Sylvia Koscina Directed by Pietro Francisci
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	• Elementary Competition Greenbelt v Tulip Grove
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
8 pm	Classic Movies ★ Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Adventure/Fantasy • 1958	• Hercules • Steve Reeves • Sylvia Koscina Directed by Pietro Francisci
10 pm	Music at the New Deal Café	• Karikatura • Transglobal Soul Band • Cumbia Hip-Hop Ragga Klezmer
11 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
 STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltnet.org/channel-live-stream

ACE AWARDS continued from page 3

is unmatched. He goes above and beyond for both the students and the staff daily. He is the leader of the Math After-School Club sponsored by ACE. During this unusual school year, he has also taken on additional responsibility as the education technology lead, in which role he provides professional development on instructional technology and holds office hours for technical support.

French Immersion

Kate McElhenny introduced Phillip Held as the award winner from Dora Kennedy French Immersion, where he has served for more than a decade. His role as technology lead for the school has been critical this year, as he provides assistance to students, faculty and even parents, all the while maintaining his patience and sense of humor. He consistently seeks to be of assistance to others and to add value to the school community, for which Dora Kennedy is greatly appreciative.

Greenbelt Middle

Veronica Martin-Alston introduced Camille Butler, a teacher of 15 years who has taught at Greenbelt Middle School for four years. As an instructional lead teacher in reading and language arts and social studies, she is a team player and supports all programs at the school. Her strong instructional leadership has helped to foster great school relationships with both staff and students. She helps to build school community and family engagement, and she goes above and beyond by being very active in and outside of the school community.

Eleanor Roosevelt High

Gordon Gainer introduced Yvette Goslee, a teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). While several staff members have stepped up to find innovative solutions during this

challenging year, Goslee stands out. She has proved that she is a vital component and an asset to the success of ERHS, always going beyond what is required of her as a classroom educator. While facing a myriad of challenges, including mourning the loss of her father, Goslee has never wavered in her responsibility to her students or other school demands. She has developed and trained staff with new and innovative approaches to teaching students and communicating with parents in this virtual environment. She has chaperoned students to Japan, organized graduations and senior award programs. In addition, she has also increased the number of aspiring female students taking AP Computer Science and has increased the overall pass rate on the AP exam for ERHS.

With the completion of the awards, Brady and all the councilmembers thanked these educators for all their work, especially in these times.

EGG HUNT continued from page 3

"It's really great ... to see the kids' excitement and to know that even during a pandemic, that we are able to provide some little bit of normalcy," Hegwood said. "It's a good thing, right, for kids to be able to be kids."

Greenbelt resident Janay Sanders and her two dogs took a picture with the Easter Bunny. She

said she would definitely like to see more events like this from the fire department.

"I feel like it's very important for the kids to come out and just interact ... even if it's just for a short time," Sanders said. "I think it's important to have that human connection."

According to Hegwood, she



Simone Dale and Haven Dale pose with the Easter Bunny.

- Photos by Jamal Austin



Mia, Elizabeth and Kira Moore take a picture with Sparky and the Easter Bunny.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-9410



Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

**Easter Changes Everything!**

Come Discover Why at **MCF Community Church**
Sundays, 10a - 11a

Currently Meeting Online at:

MCFcc.org/online

"Joy gives us wings! In times of joy our strength is

more vital, our intellect keener, and our understanding less clouded. We seem better able to cope with the world and to find our sphere of usefulness."

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 4 10 a.m.

"Survival and Salvation: What Saves You?"

Rev. Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Ebony Contreras and the Choir

Passover, Easter and Spring arrive to tempt us with life, even when it seems against all odds. Many myths, parables and stories speak and sing of resurrection. Are there moments in your own life, when someone you loved invited you to begin again, to be born anew, to praise life in all its joys and sorrows? May we join together to practice revolutionary love - that is our heritage and our calling. ONLINE ONLY.

Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 1, 7:30pm

(Live Streamed on FB)

Good Friday

April 2

2pm: Traditional

Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Liturgy of the

Lord's Passion

(Live Streamed on FB)

Easter Sunday

April 3, 8pm,

The Vigil of Easter

(Live Streamed on FB)

April 4: 8, 9:30, and 11am

Sunday Masses

Saint Hugh Catholic Church
135 Crescent Rd.

The Paschal Triduum

Masks and social distancing required

125 capacity



Greenbelt Community Church



a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

1 Hillside Road

301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

Join Us on Facebook Live
Sunday at 10:15

The Surprising Gift

The Bible Says...

Resurrection Sunday!

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies."

John 11:25

Sunday Worship Services

10a-11a **ONLINE**

MCFcc.org/online

Worship with us at

Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical Confessional Reformed Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 11:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/Youtube

«101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD»

www.greenbeltbaptist.org

301-474-4212

@GreenbeltBaptist



City Notes

Street Maintenance/Special Details removed salt spreaders and washed trucks. It's spring! Horticulture/Parks beautified planting beds around town and Refuse/Recycling collected 25.66 tons of refuse and 12.03 tons of recyclables. The Sustainability/Environmental team facilitated a Maglev Task Force meeting and Building Maintenance de-winterized the pool, while Fleet Maintenance repaired wheelchair lifts in two buses. Recreation offered the Hopping Around Town event, and the Outdoor Movie series begins Friday, April 2.

At the Community Center, GAIL offered a produce/diaper distribution and contactless pickups began for Spring Arts class supplies. Therapeutic Recreation moderated Zoom bingo for Golden Agers and facilitated meal distribution for 41 seniors.

Greenbelt Soccer Alliance began permitted use of Schrom Hills Park, first helping park rangers clean the field after previous abuse.

The Green Ridge House first Covid-19 vaccine clinic served 55 residents and some city staffers. CARES Liz Park and Planning Director Terri Hruby began an 18-month program to help cities develop eviction prevention strategies.

 **Cat got your tongue?**
Advertise here
\$15 and up
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

Start Your Engines!

Greenbelt buyers, start your engines! I have THREE great listings coming on the market soon. Are you already preapproved? If not, it's time. Be in touch and we can discuss how you can get ready to buy in this tight market.

**Kim Kash**

Realtor®
m 301.789.6294
kim.kash@compass.com

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. All measurements and square footage are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 202.545.6900



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR APRIL 5-9

Monday, April 5 at 7:00pm **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, virtual meeting.

Tuesday, April 6 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/ Apartment Owners** *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltdmd.gounicipaltv*

Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30pm, **EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD**. virtual meeting.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00pm, **SPECIAL MEETING-CLOSED SESSION** (please see notice below)

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**. *On the Agenda: NASA Goddard Greenbelt Campus Draft Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan*

Wednesday, April 7 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/GEAC (stakeholder)**: *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv*

Thursday, April 8 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)**. *On the Agenda: Community Feedback, Approval of Minutes, Council Referral on Festival of Lights Inclusivity, Planning for Future Forums, Reports from CRAB and Next Meeting Date. This agenda is subject to change.*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING - CLOSED SESSION**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a Closed Session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. virtually by Zoom to: 1) to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the City and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 32 agreement regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

City Council Virtual Meeting will be held online

*The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session with the dial-in information provided below.

Resident Dial-in for observation: Join By Phone: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 826 7019 8014 Passcode: 635541

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov.
Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

FREE TUTORING

GREENBELT CARES

Does your child need help with Math, Reading, Social Studies, or other School work?

Where: Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring

When: Spring 2021 (March 29-June 18)

Ages 6 – 18

(Must be Prince George's County Resident)

Contact us to Enroll:

Email: jhering@greenbeltdmd.gov or 202-740-6473

**EMERGENCY DIAPER PICK-UP**

Need help with diapers? In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, The Greenbelt Nursery Project is supporting needy Greenbelt families by distributing diapers on Thursday, April 15th, 2021.

Parents are required to bring state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate, proof of Greenbelt residency (mail from a federal, state, or local government agency which display their name and Greenbelt residential address). No walk-ups accepted. Please register online at <https://forms.gle/PM9PWYkYUWtbC99PA>

Registration required. Time and location given upon submitted registration.

For City Services, Events, Meeting, Info and more

www.greenbeltdmd.gov

Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter

33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

April 10, 2021

Indian Creek Trail off Cherrywood Lane

10 AM – 1 PM

Join the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works and the Alice Ferguson Foundation for a stream cleanup event as Greenbelt participates in the 33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Volunteers are needed to clean up litter along Indian Creek.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Face masks must be worn and social distancing protocols must be followed at all times
- Volunteers must register in order to participate
- Limited to 25 volunteers

To Register: Contact Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltdmd.gov

MOONLIT MOVIES

Braden Field
Behind the Youth Center
Fridays, April 2 - May 28

Outdoor movies have been a tradition in Greenbelt since 2014, and this year they will be a safe, fun way to get back to the movies! Greenbelt Recreation and Old Greenbelt Theatre will feature

family fun films. This is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt and Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Tickets will be sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre. Purchase a circle for up to 5 household members at \$25 per circle. Event max participation is limited to 100 guests.

Visit <https://greenbeltheatre.org/> for more info.

**SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!**

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards!

Apply now at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Employee Relations Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301-474-8000

FREE ESOL CLASSES

GREENBELT CARES

Do you want to learn English?

FREE (Gratis) ESOL Classes

Where: Online Lessons

When: Spring 2021 (March 29-June 18)

Monday morning, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday morning, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Friday morning, from 10:00 - 11:30

Adult class, ages 21+, Must be PG County Resident

Email: jhering@greenbeltdmd.gov or call: 202-740-647

**Free Produce Distribution**

April 15, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRESCENT ROAD GROUND FLOOR EAST (near flagpole)

¡Gratis! Distribución De Verduras

15 DE Abril, 1:00pm-3:00pm

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770

LA ENTRADA SERCA DE UNA ROTONDA Y LA BANDERA!

GHI continued from page 3



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

New siding was put on all the frame homes in GHI's Homes Improvement Program. Homeowners could choose from nine siding colors.

fund. The fund was established following the first community-wide rehabilitation project in the early 1980s and grew through earmarked contributions from the co-op fees that GHI members pay each month. Although the replacements were considered mandatory, member requests to keep the original doors and baseboard heaters were approved, and member-installed windows or casement windows installed in the 1980s rehab were not replaced if they were in good condition and met HIP standards. Also, insulation, an air seal and a vapor barrier were added to the crawlspaces beneath the row houses, paid by unreserved operating funds and by member co-op fees apportioned to repay a loan taken by GHI for crawlspace improvements.

Optional Improvements

A plethora of optional improvements were offered that members could have done at their own expense but at 'bulk purchase' prices negotiated by GHI and by contractors hired, scheduled and overseen by GHI. The options available varied among the three basic building types – block, brick façade and frame – and included casement windows instead of the default sliders, different entry door features (mail slot, peephole, etc.), new storm doors, bathroom exhaust fans, digital thermostats and additional insulation, for under siding or in attics. The most expensive member option, but probably the most popular, was the mini-split heat pump, which was installed in nearly 500 homes, according to HIP Director Joe Wiegagen. The ductless mini-split system efficiently provides air conditioning and supplemental heat and could easily be retrofitted to the small GHI homes without taking up indoor space. Previously, GHI homes were cooled mostly by window or through-the-wall air conditioners, although some members had installed heat pumps before HIP started.

Pilot Program

Before embarking on the community-wide project, GHI conducted a multi-year pilot program designed by the GHI Buildings Committee to evaluate options to improve energy efficiency and comfort in the homes. The pilot program, conducted on seven rows of houses (28 units total, in each of the three building types), also aimed to provide GHI with information on the cost of upgrades, the energy savings

ally the same though the contracts were re-bid and approved each year.

Covid-related Delays

Work on HIP's final year was gearing up to begin when the pandemic shut things down. Much of the work is done inside homes, requiring that work crews enter and move from room to room. According to Wiegagen, the start of work in 2020 was delayed for about 10 weeks while Covid-19 procedures were developed for work crews and residents. There was an additional six-week delay because procurement of parts or components, especially

especially windows, was slowed by Covid-19 restrictions, causing the work to continue into 2021.

Member Satisfaction

Wiegagen noted that "a project this large and involving so many homes and different components will have complaints. Common issues were cleanup, yard damage due to siding work, and interior trim damage, especially around doors. The age of the homes and space limitations were a particular challenge. GHI's maintenance department was invaluable in helping to resolve many of these issues and the project could not have been done at this pace and scope without them."

But Wiegagen gets high marks from GHI members for his efficient management of HIP and his willingness to address and accommodate concerns to the extent possible. Members have generally been satisfied with the upgrades and how the work was carried out. And they greatly appreciate that their homes are now both more comfortable and more energy efficient, and will be for years – perhaps decades – to come.

The News Review Ongoing Tradition of April Fools Issues

Deanna Dawson

Our April Fools pages represent the 12th time that the newspaper has celebrated April Fools' Day. The tradition started in the 1940s, when the paper's name was the Greenbelt Cooperator. A page of made-up stories appeared first in the March 28, 1947, issue – the Cooperator staff didn't wait until April 1 fell on the paper's publication day. After years of tension and grief that Greenbelters had endured during World War II and its aftermath, the staff were ready to blow off a little steam and they felt that everyone had suffered from "taking ourselves too seriously." The major headline, Super Highway Will Be Routed Through Center, launched a recurring April Fools theme of big transportation projects coming to town.

The Cooperator staff must have had fun with their first venture into fiction, and they put together April Fools pages in each of the next few years. After that, April Fools' Day was celebrated only when it fell on a Thursday – the paper's publication day since May of 1948 – though the April 1 Thursdays of 1954 and

1971 passed without a laugh. Our last April Fools pages appeared in 2010, when one of the stories was Public Schools Adopt Cyber-Schooling, for school days that otherwise would have been canceled due to snowstorms. Ha! Ha! But, what a good idea ...

Here are links to April Fools pages through the years on the News Review website.

1947: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19470328.pdf

1948: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19480402.pdf

1949: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19490331.pdf

1950: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19500401.pdf

1965: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR19650401.pdf

1976: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR19760401.pdf

1982: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR19820401.pdf

1993: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR19930401.pdf

1999: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR19990401.pdf

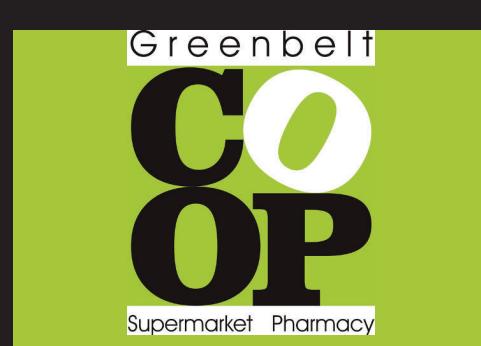
2004: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20040401.pdf

2010: greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20100401.pdf



Hannover Parkway Bradford Pears

PHOTO BY RAHUL MEHTA



CELEBRATE EASTER AND THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING!

In Historic Roosevelt Center
www.greenbelt.coop

**Garden Center**

- Potted Spring Flowers
- Hanging Basket Ferns
- Bouquets of Cut Flowers
- Flower, Fruit, Vegetable Seeds

Grocery

- Easter Candy
- Meat: Lamb, Ham, Rib Roast
- Vegan Roasts: Ham Style, Hazelnut Cranberry

Easter Sunday Hours: 9am-2pm. The Deli will be closed.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department,
www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Shooting

March 21, 10:33 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. Officers responded to a report of the sound of shots in the rear parking lot of Beltway Plaza. A witness said he saw several people near a vehicle there and then heard several gunshots. There were no reports of any injuries. Officers located several shell casings in the parking lot.

Robbery

March 21, 8:24 p.m., 6102 Breezewood Court. Several men in an apartment hallway approached a food delivery person who was attempting to make a delivery. She gave the pizza to the men, at which time one of them produced a handgun and demanded money. She refused. Then the men demanded her car keys. She again refused and the men fled on foot.

Theft

March 19, 9:22 p.m., 5910 Greenbelt Road. A wallet was taken from an employee break room at CVS.

March 20, 4:10 p.m., 6142 Springhill Terrace. A man agreed to purchase a video game player over a social media app and met with the seller to complete the transaction. The seller said he had to leave to retrieve the controller unit. After he left, two men approached the buyer and asked to see his wallet. He removed the money and gave it to them.

Burglary

March 22, 11:44 a.m., 7501 Greenway Center Drive. Three laptop computers were taken from an office suite.

March 23, 6 p.m., 6152 Springhill Terrace. DJ equipment, a laptop computer and a wireless speaker were taken from a residence.

Vandalism

March 20, 6:22 a.m., 5921 Cherrywood Terrace. A noise

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

Explore the North End WWII Defense Housing

by Megan Searing Young



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT MUSEUM COLLECTION

A child rides a scooter amidst defense housing, c. 1942.

When the federal government built defense housing in the planned community of Greenbelt, it ended up with a town divided into two neighborhoods, with two different populations that lived in two kinds of housing, old and new, defense and nondefense. The two neighborhoods bonded through the home front experiences of World War II and the cooperative nature of Greenbelt's municipal, social and economic institutions.

However, residents of one section of defense housing, physi-

cally and sociologically separate from the planned community, managed to create their own identity and spaces within the built environment provided to them. This area became known as the North End. Come take a virtual stroll through the North End on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m. with volunteer docent Stephen Oetken. Discover what made and continues to make this area a unique part of Greenbelt's history. Register for this free event at Eventbrite: [eventbrite.com/e/141478262291](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/141478262291).

VACCINATION

continued from page 3

Marylanders to get vaccinated."

Alsobrooks added, "Prince George's County has certainly been the hardest-hit jurisdiction in the region, and we thank the White House, FEMA and our other federal partners for selecting our county as a location for a federally-run mass vaccination site. It is absolutely critical that we can continue to quickly and equitably administer vaccine to

our community. This new site will help us increase the number of Prince Georgians and others who are proud to be protected from Covid-19."

FEMA Region 3 Acting Regional Administrator Janice Barlow said the mission is "a trust and an honor to carry out." The site, she said, will help ensure equitable and efficient vaccinations for all Americans. "We will make sure every resident who wants a vaccination can get one."

Marylanders interested in receiving a vaccination at any state-run mass vaccination site should visit covidlink.maryland.gov or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

Listening Skills For Relationships

The Prince George's Community Collaborative Resolution Center (PGCCRC) announces a virtual learning series designed to help improve relationships.

Collaborative Listening for Relationship Building, a four-part series, begins Saturday, April 10. The free series will take place virtually on four consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

All sessions can be accessed through Eventbrite at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-listening-for-relationship-building-tickets-149000000000); type in "collaborative listening." For more information, contact the PGCCRC at pgresolutioncenter@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts associated with the demolition of Building 11A at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) located in Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland. This notice announces the availability of the EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment.

The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and describes the proposed action, alternative action, and the no action alternative. Under the proposed action alternative, the Secretary would approve the demolition and removal of Building 11A followed by the return of the site to pre-construction conditions, where feasible. Building 11A is considered a contributing resource to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible BARC Historic District (PG:62-14). Demolition of Building 11A will result in an adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and will require mitigation that will be included in the development of a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the BARC campus by the USDA-ARS. This will support the potential redevelopment of areas on the BARC campus making it more sustainable and supportive of new and ongoing research opportunities.

The EA is open for a 30-day public review from April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. A printed copy of the EA is available for review at the BARC, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 003, Room 009, Beltsville, MD 20705; College Park Community Library, 9704 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740; and Beltsville Branch Library, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705; and on-line at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/>.

Anyone interested in commenting should submit their thoughts by April 30, 2021 to Bill Howl, BARC Point of Contact, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg. 003, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 or by email at bill.howl@usda.gov.

Vaccine Info At a Glance

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnmd.gov/vaccineinfo.

The state has moved to Phase 2B of vaccination, which includes adults 60 and older, people over 16 with underlying health conditions that put them at risk, people with developmental disabilities and most health care workers, people receiving hospital and outpatient care and many others. People in all earlier phases are still eligible. Information is available on the State of Maryland Covid-19 information site at coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine#access.

Pre-registration is required for vaccines dispensed by the Prince George's County Health Department. The pre-registration form can be found at covid19vaccination.princegeorgescounty.gov/.

Those without internet access can call the Maryland GoVAX Covid-19 Vaccination Support Center at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829) from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week for information. There is an automated menu ("Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish," for example) that requires entry of the caller's five-digit ZIP Code and makes repeated attempts to divert callers to the website. With persistence, callers can reach a human being who will assist with the pre-registration and appointment process and answer any questions.

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 Jeanna Pryor, Founder and CEO of Pryor Financial Services LLC., is an accredited wealth strategist and financial counselor with the Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education.

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SERVICES

LAWN & ORDER has adopted a bi-partisan rescue plan for all Greenbelt yards! Thru April, such services as seeding, mulching, trimming, cleanup and hedge clipping will be offered on a 10% discount basis. So call Dennis at 240-264-7638 and please remember to stay safe! (Crews are 100% vaccinated.)

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Overpayments Policy

To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, effective March 25, 2021 the News Review will accumulate overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contribute the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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City Manager's Budget Keeps Taxes and Fees Unchanged

by Diane Oberg

At the March 22 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council, City Manager Nicole Ard presented her proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), which begins on July 1. She called for taking a conservative approach on spending and revenue estimates, since it is not known how quickly city programs and the local economy will recover from the pandemic.

City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon projects that revenues will increase by \$1.7 million (5.7 percent) to \$31,310,000. Expenditures are proposed to increase by \$849,300 (2.8 percent) from the estimated Fiscal Year 2021 level, or \$2.2 million (7.43 percent) over the adopted budget level. This will leave the city with an unassigned fund balance of \$5,588,043 or 17.8 percent of proposed expenditures. (Note: Gaymon has confirmed this correction to the General Fund summary table.) The city's current goal is to maintain a fund balance of at least 10 percent of total expenditures. However, the Government Finance Officers Association recommends maintaining a 15 percent fund balance while city staff and the city's financial advisors recommend an 18 to 20 percent reserve. Commercial abatements remain a concern. While few have been filed so far, several large Greenbelt businesses have been hit hard, including several hotels, and could file for retroactive reductions in their property taxes.

The budget continues to have a higher degree of uncertainty than normal due to the continuing impact of Covid-19 and the resulting economic disruptions that have hit some city businesses hard.

Gaymon, at the March 24 budget worksession, discussed the assumptions she had to make to prepare her revenue estimates. She assumed that in the first quarter (July through September) some restrictions will remain in place and businesses will continue to operate at a reduced level. For quarters two and three, she projected that all restrictions will be removed though business may not be up to whatever their new normal level will become. For the fourth quarter, she projected that businesses will be operating at their fullest level, which may be less than their pre-pandemic level.

Ard's proposed budget grants city employees a 2 percent cost of living increase plus a 3 percent merit/step increase. Health insurance costs are expected to stay at or slightly below their FY21 level. Refuse collection fees will remain \$70/quarter or \$280 annually. Other fees will also remain unchanged.

The budget includes \$5 million in capital projects including \$2 million (funded by the Greenbelt Station developer) for the WMATA connection trail, almost \$1 million for street resurfacing, \$667,700 for the Buddy Attick Park parking lot (contingent upon grant funding) and \$310,900 for improvements at the Youth Center.

The budget also includes \$400,000 for an essential new financial system as the software vendor will stop supporting the current system later this calendar year, \$190,000 for an air handling unit at the police station and \$100,000 for a compensation study, among other projects. Some funding is also included to support implementation of the compensation study's recommendations and for a community visioning activity.

However, Ard recommends that council continue to defer filling certain positions, and hold off on projects not funded through loans or grants. However, alternate ways of funding were discussed at a March 24 worksession, which will be reported in an upcoming issue of the News Review.

Current Year

The budget document also provides the first full estimate of how the pandemic affected the city's expenditures and updates the revenue projections.

Total revenues were very close to those in the adopted budget, down just \$23,635 from the adopted budget total of \$29,622,835. Expenditures were more heavily impacted, exceeding the budget amount by \$1.3 million. Additional costs include those related to telework, tele-health and to support moving all council, board and committee meetings online. In addition, facility improvements and increased sanitation also added to expenses.

Gaymon estimates that the city will need to use \$860,500 of its reserves to balance the budget for the current fiscal year, leaving the city with an unassigned fund balance (reserves) of \$5,587,043 or 18.3 percent of estimated expenditures, down from 22.3 percent at the end of FY20. And since FY22 proposed expenditures are larger than FY21, although the estimated end of year reserve is \$1,000 greater than that in FY21 the fund balance dips to 17.8 percent.

Next Steps

The budget presentation kicks off a series of nine budget worksessions. Council will hold public hearings on the budget at its April 26 and May 24 regular meetings and is expected to adopt its version of the budget at its June 7 regular meeting.

Letters continued

Letters from Both Sides

Forest Health

As gardeners in the Gardenway section of the Community Gardens, we support the Action Plan to restore the health of the forest ecosystem that surrounds our gardens while relieving severe shading of vegetable plots.

The plan is based upon the recommendation of the city's 2016 Forest Health Assessment for the creation of "soft forest edges." Native grasses and wildflowers, shrubs and trees of gradually increasing heights at the forest edges are necessary to create a healthy forest ecosystem that can provide sustenance and habitat for pollinators, fireflies and hummingbirds alike. Without those soft edges, the shade cast by the 75-foot trees at the literal forest edges surrounding our gardens has resulted in a severely ecologically compromised forest, with overwhelming colonization of the area by invasives that do not and cannot serve as host plants for native insects or provide necessary nutrition to birds.

Every tall tree and invasive plant that is selectively removed will be replaced with multiple shorter native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. We would restore formerly numerous species that have been largely lost to the soil's seed bank. Paw paw and Chickasaw plum trees; elderberry, black chokeberry, clove currant and New Jersey tea shrubs; and wildflowers and bunchgrasses would provide badly needed habitat.

For 14 of the 22 Gardenway plots, one-third to all of each plot's area has been lost to vegetable cultivation due to insufficient hours of sunshine during the growing season. But shade is far from our only concern. We gardeners need more pollinators and beneficial insects, and more native berries to provide sustenance for the birds who are so hungry that they decimate our seed crops. The forest ecosystem has the identical needs. Please join us in supporting the proposal to care for the Forest Preserve that surrounds our gardens.

15 Greenbelt Gardeners

Protecting Trees

I hope that the Greenbelt City Council, and the gardeners themselves, will reconsider the recent proposal to destroy 150 trees near the community gardens. The trees provide benefits to all Greenbelt residents. Besides removing pollution from the air, trees release some of the oxygen we breathe and absorb carbon dioxide from the air, helping to keep it from reaching toxic levels.

But Greenbelt increasingly seems to view trees as disposable inconveniences, rather than viewing them in a public-health context. Our area continues to undergo destruction of trees through development and other activities, and the tree destruction by these individual projects adds up.

I wholeheartedly support both trees and gardeners. Are there other solutions to the shade issues affecting the community gardens? I'm "speaking" out of turn here, not knowing what went into the proposal to destroy the 150 trees and not knowing what the gardeners' needs and insights are – but I hope that the current proposal will be abandoned and that other options will be considered.

For example, would it be possible to dedicate the shaded portion of the gardens to shade-tolerant plants and move the rest of the operation to other, sunnier spaces? Northway Field is huge and is right next to a community mulch pile – is there a part of the field that could be used for gardening and would be far enough away from athletic activities so that it wouldn't interfere with them, and vice versa? Maybe not, but I urge the council and the gardeners to continue looking for other solutions. Let's not add more of nature's dwindling air-purifiers and habitats to the community mulch pile.

Susan Cahill



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From the Archives

Greenbelt Works to Further Desegregation in the 1970s

by Jeannette Connors

In 1955, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, the Prince George's County School Board opted for a program of gradual desegregation. Under a so-called "freedom of choice" policy, Black students could choose to stay at their segregated schools or apply for admission to a White school if it was closer to their residence. According to the Washington Post (December 1, 1974, reprinted in the Greenbelt News Review on December 26, 1974), "65 black students were permitted to transfer to white schools" in Prince George's County in 1955, "but the school board had announced it was reserving the right to deny transfer applications and 26 were denied."

With the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, federal pressure increased on the county to drop the current system. The "freedom of choice" policy was replaced with a plan based on geographic areas. However, because the old system was not completely dismantled, a lawsuit was filed in March 1972 in a Baltimore federal court on behalf of eight Black parents wanting further desegregation of the county's schools. This resulted in U.S. District Court Judge Frank Kaufman ordering the school board to prepare a plan of desegregation which would begin in January 1973. The busing plan would involve both Black students and White students being transported to different schools. An anti-busing resolution was introduced to the Greenbelt City Council around the time of this order. The resolution was based in part on the advantages of "having children as close to home as possible" and the trepidation that busing "into unfamiliar areas will surely have a detrimental effect on [Greenbelt] children." Also cited were the potential negative and unsettling effects on the quality of education. The City Council voted against the resolution after a 2-hour meeting of audience-council participation.

Some Greenbelters, however, supported the busing program and thought the real issue was quality education. One citizen wrote that "if we are concerned about all children, not just our own, we will support busing as a necessary, if expensive and

inconvenient, step toward the long-postponed desegregation of our county schools." Similarly, a former Prince George's County public school student wrote that desegregation could help students learn to communicate with one another. Until junior high school, the former student had "no contact with kids of different socio-economic or racial backgrounds." As a result, "it was very hard for us to communicate" she wrote, and "if I had grown up with them through elementary school, it would have helped us to communicate so much more than we were able to."

Three Greenbelt elementary schools were slated for the 1973 busing program: North End, Springhill Lake and Center School. Some Center School students were to be bused about 10 miles away to John Carroll Elementary School in Landover. In anticipation of their arrival, Center School students received letters of welcome from John Carroll students. The News Review published a selection of these letters. A Center School student named Holly received a letter from a Carroll student who wrote: "we hope that you will be comfortable here. The teachers are very nice here and the lunches are good. We have a very nice library and all kinds of interesting books and nice films too."

In February 1973, a News Review article reported the first day of school transitions went smoothly and opening day for students at their new schools was an ordinary school day with a "no tears" operation. These letters of welcome may have helped anxious Greenbelt children – and worried parents – adapt to an unfamiliar environment and see that it was not all that different from their own. And as that former Prince George's County student wrote: "there are too many beautiful people in this world that they [the students] will never meet unless you give them the chance."

Information used in this article was drawn from issues of the Greenbelt News Review published during 1970 through 1974. Digital versions are available on the News Review Archives website (greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/).

Rumor said that "Print was dead." Not on our watch. This ad is \$30.

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Covid-19 Cabin Fever Inspires Crafts Promoting Calmness

by Letty Wilson Bonnell

Curious about creative avenues folks in Greenbelt have pursued to cope with the year-long Covid-19 lockdown, the News Review asked readers to send in examples of new craft projects they have undertaken while stuck at home. We received an eclectic and engaging array of responses, along with stories about how these mindful activities helped their makers through long, isolating days.

Lucy Dirksen, local art teacher and illustrator, submitted a photo of her hand-sewn baby quilt, made from leftover scraps of fabric from masks made during the pandemic. Her simple composition, a single multi-colored flower with a whimsical embroidered bee hovering just above, cheerfully evokes warm and comforting thoughts of childhood.

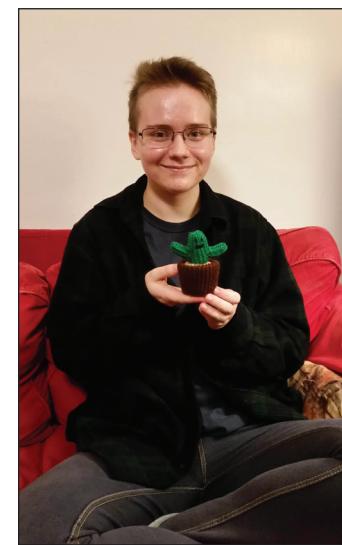
Anne Gardner sent us information not only about her ongoing craft project, but also about those of two of her children, Avery and David.

Anne's needlework creation is a reproduction of Pierre-Auguste Renoir's Luncheon of the Boating Party, which is on display at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. – which has recently reopened for visitors.

"I actually started the cross-stitch in 2017, back when my eyesight was still good enough that I thought doing 18 stitches to the inch was a good idea. Now I need to stack reading glasses over my regular glasses just to thread the needle, let alone do those tiny stitches. But I've been making progress on it since the shutdown, and am now about two-thirds of the way through it. I can't claim any credit for the pattern; I bought a pdf of the chart on the internet. It was daunting at first, since it involved about 25 pages of dense chart, and over 50 colors, but I have always found it calming to do cross-stitch, and it's fun to see the picture gradually unfold. It also makes a change from sewing masks."

Anne talks about Avery. "Avery, my 16-year-old, has done various crafty things since the shutdown, including knitting scarves and little creatures, painting, tending to a sourdough starter (named Cleopatra) that a neighbor gave us and baking good bread with it. The advantages of online learning include being able to knit during class, and being able to run into the kitchen between classes to do a quick knead of that sourdough bread or put it in the oven so that it's ready for lunch!"

And she talks about David: "My oldest, David, got back into ceramics just before the shutdown, having taken classes at the Community Center as a child. He was very sad to have to stop



Avery Gardner poses with a knitted cactus.



Lucy Dirksen holds her hand-sewn baby quilt made from fabric cut for masks.



A Bob Ross-inspired painting by Madeline Henderson



Teapot made by David Gardner



Felted flowers made by Melissa Sites rejuvenate a wool sweater worn by husband Ian Blackwell Rogers.

when everything closed down and he had to come home from college to finish his senior year virtually. He graduated in May, then moved back up to the Boston area to start a new job, and was happy to find a little ceramics studio near where he lives, which has managed to reopen with masks and social distancing. He made us a beautiful teapot for Christmas, and has stocked his apartment with mugs, bowls, plates and plant pots, not to mention a soap dispenser and a candle holder! We zoom with him every weekend and get to see the latest things he has made."

Madeline Henderson shared several craft activities that have kept her creatively engaged in the past months. "So, first I had to play with my Bob Ross paintbrushes, a Christmas gift from my folks. Then, I bought myself a small Cricut and am having fun with making decals and cards, and my masterpiece shadowbox. Hope you enjoy the pics!" A Cricut is a machine that can cut a variety of materials, such as paper, vinyl or cardstock, into precise and intricate shapes that can then be used in all sorts of crafting experiments.

Melissa Sites, musician, teacher and director of the College

Park Arts Exchange (CPAE), participated in a felting workshop earlier this year offered by Greenbelt artist Ingrid Cowan Hass at CPAE. "When people are stuck at home with limited recreational opportunities, the arts are more important than ever. Making a simple, colorful flower, butterfly or bee from a batch of colorful wool is a relaxing creative activity that almost anyone can enjoy. More than 20 people, from as far away as Pennsylvania, signed up in advance to receive felting kits, which included a gallon-sized bag stuffed with multiple colors of felting wool, a felting needle and a sponge (to jab the needle into while felting), and these kits were dropped off at participants' houses. During the two-hour Zoom workshop, Ingrid led the multi-generational group of first-time felters through working the felt, using the needle, shaping the bees and flowers, and gave advice about how to take the skills to the next level. [I created] bright and colorful felted flowers [to] rejuvenate a wool sweater."

Drop us a line at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com if you have other Covid-19 calmness stories to share.

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